

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3486

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS WA SF

SUBJ: DESTRUCTION OF PRINTING PRESS IN OWAMBO: BELIEF GROWS
THAT WHITES RESPONSIBLE

1. SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE HAVE NOT APPREHENDED PERSON OR PERSONS
RESPONSIBLE FOR BLOWING UP PRINTING PRESS, OFFICE COMPLEX
AND BOOKSHOP BELONGING TO BISHOP LEONARD AUALA'S OVAMBO- KAVANGO
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN OWAMBO (CAPE TOWN 365). RELIABLE
SOURCES IN NAMIBIA SAY EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS QUITE SOPHISTICATED
AND HAD TO HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED BY EXPERT. BLACKS AND SOME
WHITES ARE CONVINCED THAT WHOEVER DID IT WAS WHITE.

2. ONE THEORY CURRENT IN WINDHOEK IS THAT PREPETRATOR OF
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EXPLOSION COULD HAVE BEEN WHITE WHO RESENTED LANGUAGE OF SAG'S RESPONSE TO UN SYG WALDHEIM, VIEWING IT AS UNACCEPTABLE CONCESSION TO UN. SUCH PERSON WOULD HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY DESIRE STRIKE A BLOW AGAINST CONTINUATION OF UN- SAG DIALOGUE. OTHER THEORIES ARE THAT EXPLOSION WAS SIMPLY WORK OF WHITE EXTREMISTS WHO HATE EVERYTHING AUALA STANDS FOR, OR THAT PRO- SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT OWAMBO GOVERNMENT INSTIGATED THE INCIDENT.

3. INTERESTINGLY, SOURCES IN WINDHOEK SAY THAT MANY, PERHAPS MOST, WHITES IN NAMIBIA SEEM TO BE LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF SAG'S RESPONSE TO SYG WALDHEIM. INITIALLY ANXIETY WAS GREATER, BUT ARTICLES IN NATIONAL PARTY PAPER IN SWA, DIE SUIDWESTER, QUOTED " AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" AS INSISTING SAG HAD MADE NO CONCESSIONS, THAT NOTHING HAD CHANGED. THIS SEEMS TO HAVE ALLAYED SOMEWHAT THE UNEASINESS AMONG THOSE WHITES WHO WERE WORRIED. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE MAJORITY OF WHITES SEEM TO RETAIN FAITH THAT PRETORIA WILL PROTECT THEM FROM EVENTUAL BLACK RULE OF NAMIBIA, SOME WHITES STILL ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT SAG RESPONSE TO WALDHEIM.

4. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE MOTIVE BEHIND DESTRUCTION OF PRINTING PRESS AND WHOEVER DID IT, ITS EFFECT IS TO GIVE SAG ANOTHER BLACK EYE AT CRUCIAL MOMENT IN HISTORY OF UN- SAG TALKS ON SWA. ONLY WAY THIS COULD BE UNDONE WOULD BE FOR SA POLICE TO SOLVE CRIME AND ARREST GUILTY PARTY. OBSERVERS IN WINDHOEK ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT SA POLICE WILL SUCCEED IN DOING THIS -- NOT IF CULPRIT IS WHITE MAN.
HURD

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